

The Sugar Crop of the World and its Movement.

Next to the importance and magnitude of the production of cotton, stands the growth and supply of sugar. From having been little known to the Greeks and Romans, except by small samples brought from China, in the form of candy, which they believed were derived from the extraction of a species of reed, we find its actual cultivation was first introduced by the Saracens into the islands of Rhodes, Cyprus, Sicily and Crete, in the ninth century. In the twelfth century the Venetians derived it cheaper and more abundantly from Sicily than from Egypt. The march of the Crusaders into the East caused them to become better acquainted with sugar, and on their return they spread a taste for it over the west of Europe. Venice had imported it as early as 996, anterior to the Crusades. The process of refining it is a modern discovery, made by a Venetian about the close of the fifteenth century.

When the Saracens obtained a footing in Spain, they soon after introduced the cultivation of sugar into that country, which spread over the southern provinces, and was carried into Portugal. From these countries its cultivation was introduced into the Canary and Madeira Islands in the early part of the fifteenth century.

It has been doubted by some whether the sugar cane is a native of the American continent. The weight of evidence, however, is in favor of the affirmative, supported by the opinion of Baron de Humboldt. It is also said to be a native of the Sandwich Islands.

The oldest English settlement made in the West Indies was at Barbados, in 1627, and in 1647 they commenced exporting sugar to England. In 1656 she attained her maximum, and employed 400 vessels in the trade, averaging 150 tons each. Jamaica, wrested from Spain by Cromwell, in 1656, contained at the time only three small sugar estates.

The first cultivation was commenced in Hayti in 1506, and was found to succeed better there than anywhere else. Being at first in the hands of the Spaniards it for a long time was the source from which Europe derived its chief supplies. Previous to its desolation by the madness of abolitionism in 1790, there were no fewer than 65,000 tons, or 130,000,000 pounds, of sugar exported from the French portion of the island.

With the destruction of that island, its culture was spread to other portions of inter-tropical countries, where labor could be had on favorable terms. A large number of French refugees from St. Domingo settled in the then colony of Louisiana, and they established sugar plantations, and greatly increased its cultivation. The culture was also rapidly increased after its purchase by the United States, aided by American skill and enterprise.

By the fall of St. Domingo Jamaica was greatly enriched, and reached a high stage of prosperity; but by the abolition of the only laborer suited to its culture, it, too, is following St. Domingo in its relapse and decay.

The Venetians, in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries, imported small parcels of sugar into England and France. Prior to that period, and for some time after, honey, as with the Greeks and Romans, formed the chief reliance with the people in the north of Europe for sweetening their food. Early in the seventeenth century it was only the rich who could afford to use sugar. In 1700 England only imported 10,000 tons, or 22,000,000 lbs.

The taste for it gradually spread, and with the increase of the consumption its production was augmented by the large accession of African labor carried from the continent of Africa to the British, Spanish and French West India Islands, and into Brazil and other localities. The production and consumption mutually grew together until all parts of the civilized world have measurably ceased to view it as a luxury, but consider it to be a necessary aliment for food, as cotton is a material for clothing. With the overthrow of St. Domingo, its cultivation was transferred to those inter-tropical countries where slave labor was either perpetuated or fresh supplies were allowed to be introduced from abroad. Some of the largest fortunes in England, in which New England participated, were made by the same trade, and by the sugar culture and rum distilling in Jamaica, of whom their descendants are to be found in Massachusetts, and in the west of old England, including the great Gladstone family.

We have seen the culture of sugar extend from small beginnings in the West India Islands to the Mauritius, the Brazils, Bengal, Isle of Bourbon, Java, Siam, Philippines, &c., which, with the French, Dutch, Danish and English West India Islands, including Demerara and Berbice, produced in 1833 500,000 tons, of which 203,000 tons were imported into England; while France, in 1830, with about 31,000,000 population, consumed 67,250,000 kilograms, equal to 12-12½ kilograms per head, or about 4½ to 5 lbs. each. This consumption, however, was exclusive of that derived from the indigenous production from beet sugar, and that which was smuggled into the country to avoid heavy duties, which in 1832 was from 16,000,000 to 18,000,000 lbs. Thus, allowing for the quantity fraudulently introduced, with all other supplies, the total consumption of France at this period was about 133,000,000 lbs.; and the population being about 29,000,000 gave a consumption of about 6 lbs. per head; while in England the estimated consumption, at the same period, was put down at about 24 lbs. per head. In the United States, for the same year, the estimated consumption was about 70,000,000 tons, or 140,000,000 to 160,000,000 lbs., thus giving from 10 to 12½ lbs. per head. Of the 80,000 tons consumed, 12,000 tons, or 24,000,000 lbs., were produced in the United States. The total production of the world in 1833, exclusive of the United States, &c., was about 1,120,000,000 lbs., or 560,000 tons, and the consumption at the same period, in Europe, including beet sugar, amounted to 1,108,000,000 lbs. Since 1833 to 1856 we shall find by the following tables, that notwithstanding the production of sugar in the twenty-three years has enormously increased, the consumption has gained upon it. The application of the London Exeter Hall principles, or the war of abolition upon African labor, first in St. Domingo then in the British West Indies, and then on labor in the Spanish colonies and in Brazil, has had the effect to cause consumption to overtake the labor production and the white populations of the temperate climates must, for the future, expect to pay largely enhanced prices for the tropical products of cotton, sugar and coffee, so necessary to their comfort and well being.

The miserable attempt to revive the slave trade under the disguise of the coolie trade, must prove a failure. It is a trade which possesses all the horrors of the slave trade without its benefits. If the former was condemned as piracy, the latter should be doubly condemned. The feeble Mongolian coolies, occupying a position between the Africans and the Europeans, or whites, are neither calculated to perform the tropical labor of the blacks nor to rise to the civilization of the whites.

As far as sugar and coffee are concerned, England can look on the decline of production in the Western world with perfect indifference, because in India, where half the produce of the natives is exacted as a land tax by the Honorable East India Company, the sugar of Hindostan and the coffee of Ceylon can be made to repair the exhausted resources of wealth hitherto poured out by those countries to Britain. But in regard to cotton the question is entirely different. This we have shown in a former article. We have shown that she must annually have large supplies, and that she cannot obtain them in sufficient quantities from any part of the world other than the United States. Hence, she cannot consistently with her own preservation, destroy slavery in the United States, or suffer others to do it. Not only England, but all Europe, is interested in the preservation of the cotton culture of the South. In British India the culture of sugar and coffee is increasing. The writer, saw sugar machinery building in London some years since, for Mr. Gladstone's use.

sugar estates in British India, which was to cost about \$150,000. Yet Brazil and Spain are persuaded into the adoption of the belief that the English crusade against African labor, in the New World, is for their interest. We come now to the tables giving the production and consumption of sugars of the world, brought up to the year 1856—

PRODUCTION OF SUGAR IN THE WORLD.			
	1854	1855	1856.
Cuba, tons.....	338,000	390,000	408,000
Porto Rico.....	130	145	160
Haiti.....	80,000	90,000	100,000
St. Domingo.....	221,000	173,000	123,000
French colonies.....	81,400	85,000	88,000
Dutch and Danish.....	15,000	18,000	19,000
British West Indies.....	172,300	170,000	173,000
Spain and Portugal.....	39,300	37,000	39,000
Mauritius.....	29,300	31,000	30,000
Java.....	100,000	85,000	80,000
Malacca, Siam and China.....	30,000	30,000	30,000
Peru and Brazil.....	100,000	100,000	100,000
Volunteer, Russia and Austria.....	184,000	148,000	170,000

Total.....1,414,000 1,324,000 1,337,000.

The crop of Cuba for 1855 was 1,900,000 boxes, and, calculating five boxes to the ton, 380,000 tons. For 1856 it was estimated that it would exceed the last by ten per cent; it is now found that it will hardly exceed that, and by some it is computed at ten per cent less, but we may put it at 400,000 tons.

Thus requiring from the stock at the commencement of 1856, to make up the quantity for its consumption, the production to equal that of 1855 24,000 tons.

We thus see that the production of sugar has not increased in the same ratio as its consumption—the latter stimulated by the low prices ruling for several years past. Now that prices have for nearly a year been remunerative, production will soon be again stimulated. By the table of production above, we see that the production in 1854 exceeds that of 1855 by 57,000 tons.